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# VOLUME 4

### THE ORANGEBURG NEWS

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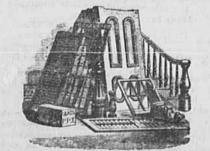
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july 24

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, 1870. [PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.]

THE GOLD-BUG. BY EDGAR A. POE.

What ho! what ho! this fellow is dancing

He hath been bitten by the Tarantula. All in the Wrong

Many years ago, I contracted an inti macy with a Mr. Wm. Legrand. He was of an ancient Huguenot family, and had once been wealthy; but a series of misfortunes had reduced him to want. To avoid the mortificacion consequent upon his disasters, he left New Orleans, the city of his forefathers, and took up his residence at Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina.

The Island is a very singular one. I consists of little else than the sea sand and is about three miles long. Its breadth at no point exceed a quarter of a mile. It is separated from the main land by a scarcely perceptible creek. orzing its way through a wilderness of reeds and slime, a favorite resort of the marsh-hen. The vegetation, as might be supposed, is scant, or at least dwarfish. No trees of any magnitude are to be seen. Near the western extremity, where Fort Moultrie stands, and where are some miserable frame buildings, tenanted, during summer, by the fugitives from Charleston dust and fever, may be found, indeed, the bristly palmetto; but the whole island, with the exception of this western point, and a line of hard, white beach on the sea-coast, is covered with a dense undergrowth of the sweet myrtle. so much prized by the horticulturists of England. The shrub here often attains the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and forms an almost impenetrable coppice, burthening the air with its fragrance.

In the inmost racesses of this coppice. not far from the eastern or more remote end of the island, Legrand had built himself a small but, which he occupied when I first, by mere accident, made his acquaintance. This soon ripened into friendship-for there was much in the recluse to excite interest and esteem. I found him well educated, with unusual powers of mind, but infected with misanthropy, and subject to perverse moods of alternate enthusiasm and melancholy. He had with him many books, but rarely employed them. His chief amusements were gunning and fishing, or sauntering along the beach and through the myrtles, in quest of shells or etomological specimens: his collection of the latter might have been envied by a Swammerdamm. In these excursions he was usually accompanied by an old negro, called Jupiter, who had been manumitted before the reverses of the family, but who could be induced, neither by threats nor by promises, to abandon what he considered his right of attendance upon the footsteps of his young "Massa Will' It is not probable that the relatives of Legrand, conceiving him to be somewhat unsettled in intellect, had contrived to instil this obstinacy into Juniter, with a view to the supervision and guardianship of the wanderer.

The winte s in the latitude of Sullivan's island are seldom very severe, and in the fall of the year it is a rare event indeed when a fire is considered necessary. About the middle of October, 18-, there occurred, however, a day flatter myself that I am not quite a of remarkable chilliness. Just before blockhead." sunset I scrambled my way through the ever-greens to the hut of my friend, whom I had not visited for several weeks -my residence being, at that time, in Charleston, a distance of nine miles from the island, while the facilities of passage physiology-and your scarabæus must be and re-passage were far behind those of the present day. Upon reaching the hut I rapped, as my custom, and getting no very thrilling bit of superstition upon reply, sought for the key where I knew this hint. I presume you will call the it was secreted, unlocked the door and bug scaraboeus caput hominis or somewent in. A fine fire was blazing upon thing of that kind-there are many the hearth. It was a novelty, and by no similar titles in the Natural Histories means an ungrateful one. I threw off But where are the antenae you spoke au overcoa , took an arm-chair by .... crackling logs, and awaited patiently the arrival of my host.

Soon atter dark they arrived, and gave me a most cordial welcome. Jupiter grinning from ear to ear, hustled about to prepare some marsh-hens for supper. and I presume that is sufficient." Legrand was in one of his fits-how else shall I term them ?-of enthusiasm. He had found an unknown bivalve, forming handed him the paper without an addihad hunted down and secured, with Juto which he wished to have my opinion the beetle, there were positively no an- dat was de way.

rubbing my hands over the blaze, and cuts of a death's head.

wishing the whole tribe of scarabai at the devil

here !" said Legrand, "but it's so long glance at the design seemed suddenly to since I saw you; and how could I foresee rivet his attention. In an instant his that you would pay me a risit this very face grew violently red-in another as night of all others? As I was coming excessively pale. For some minutes he home I met Lieutenant G-, from the continued to scrutinize the drawing fort, and, very foolishly, I lent him the minutely where he sat. At length he bug; so it will be impossible for you to arose, took a candle from the table, and see it until the morning. Stay here to- proceeded to seat himself upon a seanight, and I will send Jup down for it chest in the farthest corner of the room. at sunrise. It is the loveliest thing in Here again he made an anxious examina-

"What ?-sunrise ?"

"Nonsense! no !- the bug. It is of a brilliant gold color-about the size of a large hickory nut-with two jet black spots near one extremity of the back. and another somewhat longer, at the other. The antennæ are-"

"Dey aint no tin in him, Massa Will. I keep a tellin on you," here interrupted Jupiter; "de bug is a geole bug, solid, ebery bit of him, inside and all, sep him wing-neber feel half so hebby a bug in

"Well, suppose it is, Jup," replied Le grand, somewhat more earnestly, seemed to me, than the case demanded is that any reason for your letting the birds burn? The color," here he re turned to me-"is really almost enough to warrant Jupiter's idea. You never saw a more brilliant metalic lustre than the scales emit-but of this you cannot judge till to-morrow. In the meantime I can give you some idea of the shape. Saying this, he seated himself at a small table, on which were a pen and ink, but no paper. He looked for some in drawer, but found none.

"Never mind," said he at length "this will answer; and he drew from hi waistcoat pocket a scrap of what I took to be very dirty fools cap, and made upon it a rough drawing with the pen. While he did this, I retained my seat by the fire, f r I was still chilly. When the design was complete, he banded it to me without rising. As I received it, a read growl was heard, succeeded by a scratching at the door. Jupiter opened it, and a large Newfoundland belonging to Legrand, rushed in, leaped upon me shoulders, and loaded me with caresses; for 1 had shown him much attention during previous visits. When his gambols were over. I looked at the paper, and, to spea the truth, found myself not a little puzzled at what my friend had depicted.

"Well !" I said, after contemplating it for some minutes, "this is a strange scarabous, I must confess : new to me never saw anything like it before-up less it was a skull, or death's-headwhich it more nearly resembles than anything else that has come under my observation

"A death's head!" echoed Legrand-Oh-yes-well, it has something of that adpearance upon paper, no doubt. The two upper black spots look like eyes, eh? and the longer one at the bottom like a mouth-and then the shape of the whole

"Perhaps so," said I : "but, Legrand I fear you are no artist. I must wait until I see the beetle itself, if I am to form any idea of its personal appearance.'

"Well, I don't know," said he, a little nettled, "I draw tolerably-should do it at least-have had good masters and

"But, my dear fellow, you are joking then," said I, "this is a very passable skull-indeed, I may say that it is a very excellent skull, according to the vulgar notions about such specimens of resembles it. Why, we may get up a dare."

"The antenae!" said Legrand, who seemed to be getting unaccountably for such a supposition?" warm upon the subject; "I am sure you must see the antennae. I made them as distinct as they are in the original insect. "Well, well," I said, "perhaps you

tennae visible, and the whole did bear a " And you think, then, that your mas- ibly shocked.

He received the paper very peevishly, and was about to crumple it, apparently "Ah, if I had only known you were to throw it in the fire, when a casual tion of the paper; turning it in all directions. He said nothing, however, and his conduct greatly astonished me : yet I thought it prudent not to exacerbate the growing moodiness of his temper by any comment. Presently he took from his coat pocket a wallet, placed the paper carefully in it, and deposited both in a writing-desk, which he locked. He now grew more composed in his demeanor : but his original air of enthusiasm had quite disappeared. Yet he seemed not so much sulky as abstracted. As the evening wore away he became more and more absorbed in reverie, from which no sallies of .. ine could arouse him. It had been my intention to pass the night at the hut, as I had frequently done before, seeing my host in this mood. I deemed it proper to take leave. He did not press me to remain, but, as I depar- it ?-he had prepared a huge stick, the of Fate and of the bug"ted, he shook my hand with even more

than his usual cordiality. It was about amonth after this (and during the interval I had seen nothing of Legrand) when I received a visit, at alone saved me a flogging. Charleston, from his man, Jupiter. I had never seen the good old negro look net since we met. so dispirited, and I feared that some serious disaster had befallen my friend. "Well, Jup," said I. " What is the

matter now?-how is your master?" "Why, to speak de troof, massa, him not so berry well as mought be."

"Not well? I am truly sorry to hear it. What does he complain of?" "Dar? dat's it ? -him neber plain

of notin-but him berry sick for all you say at once? Is he confined to

ny mind is got to be berry hebby be

poor Massa Will." what it is you are talking about. You moment's hesitation, therefore, I presay your master is sick. Hasn't he told pared to accompany the negro.

you what ails him?" "Why, massa, taint worf while for to say noffin at all aint de matter wid himbut den what make him go about looking dis hear way, wid he head down and he soldiers up, and as white as a gose?"

And den he keep a syphon all de time-' " Keeps a what, Jupiter?"

"Keeps a syphon wid the figgurs on de slate-de queerest figgurs I ebber did see. Ise gittin to be skeered, I tell you. Hap for to keep mighty tight eye pon him noovers. I had a big stick ready cut for to gib him deuced good beating mysterious, is your "Massa Will' going when he did come-but Ise sich a fool to do with scythes and spades?" dat I hadn't de heart arter all-he look

so berry poorly." "Eh?-what?-ah yes?-upon the whole I think you had better not be too bug." severe with the poor fellow-don't flog him, Jupiter-he can't very well stand it-but can you form no idea of what has occasioned this illness, or rather this change of conduct? Has anything unpleasant happened since I saw you ?"

"No massa, dey aint bin noffin onpleasent since den-'twas fore den I'm the queerest scaraboeus in the world it is feared-'twas de berry day you was

"How? What do you mean?"

"De bug-I'm berry sartain dat Massa Will bin bit somewhere bout the head by dat goole-bug."

I nebber did see sich a deuced bug-he kick and he bite ebery ting what cum near him. Massa Will cotch him fuss. but had for to let him go gin mighty have-still I don't see them;" and I quick, I tell you-den was de time he must have got the bite. I didn't like de Jupiter is quite right about it?" a new genius, and more than this, he tional remark, not wishing to rumple his look ob de bug mouff, myself, no how, temper : but I was much surprised at the so I wouldn't take hold ob him wid my piter's assistance, a scarabaus which he turn affairs had taken; his ill humor finger, but I coutch him wid a peace ob

"And why not to-night?" I asked, very close resemblance to the ordinary ter was really bitten by the beetle, and that the bite made him sick ?"

"I don't tink noffin about it-I nose reinstate me in my family possessions it. What make him dream bout de Is it any wonder, then, that I prize it? goole so much; if taint cause he bit by Since Fortune has thought fit to bestow le goole-bug? Ise heerd bout dem goole- it upon me, I have only to use it properbugs fore dis." "But how do you know he dreams it is the index. Jupiter, bring me that bout gold ?" "How I know! why cause he talk bout it in he sleep-dat's how I nose." "Well, Jup, perhaps you are right;

you to-day?"

"What de matter, massa?" "Did you bring any message from Mr. Legrand ?"

"No, massa, I bring dis here pissel;" and here Jupiter handed me a note which ran thus .

MY DEAR -

Why have I not seen you for so long time? I hope you have not been so foolish as to take offence at any little able, and, taking all things into conbrusquerie of mine; but no, that is im-

cause for anxiety. I have something to that opinion, I could not, for the life of tell you, yet scarcely know how to tell it, me, tell. or whether I should tell it all.

I have not been quite well for some days past, and poor old Jup annoys me, almost beyond endurance, by his well for you, that I might have your counmeant attentions. Would you believe other day, with which to chastise me for giving him the slip, and spending the day, solus, among the hills on the main land. I verily believe that my ill looks

I have made no addition to my cabi-

If you can, in any way, make it convenient, come over with Jupiter. Do come. I wish to see you to-night, upon business of importance. I assure you that it is of the highest importance. Ever yours,

WILLIAM LEGRAND.

. here was something in the tone of this note which gave me great uneasiness. Its whole style differed materially from that of Legrand. What could be "Very sick, Jupiter ?-why didn't be dreaming of? What new crochet possessed his excitable brain? What business of the high t importance" could he possibly have to transact? Juwhar -dat's just whar de shoe pinch - piter's account of him boded no good. I dreaded lest the continued misfortune had, at length, fairly unsettled "Jupiter, I should like to understand the reason of my friend. Without a

Upon reaching the wharf. I noticed scythe and three spades, all apparently git mad about de matter-Massa Will new, lying in the bottom of the boat in which we were to embark.

> "What is the meaning of all this Jup?" I inquired. "Him syfe, massa, and spade."

> "Very true; but what are they doing "Him de syfe and de spade what

> Massa Will sis pon my buying for him in de town, and de debbils own lot of money I had to gib for em." "But what, in the name of all toat is

> "Dat's more dan I know, and debbii take me if I don't blieve 'tis more dan he know, too. But it's all cum ob de

Finding that no satisfaction was to be obtained of Jupiter, whose whole intellect seemed to be absorbed by "de bug." I now stepped into the boat and made sail. With z fair and strong breeze we soon ran into the little cove to the northward of Fort Moultrie, and a walk of some two miles brought us to the hut. It was about three in the afternoon when we arrived. Legrand had been awaiting us in eager expectation. He grasped .Why, massa, I mean de bug-dare my hand with a nerwous empressement which alarmed me and strengthened the suspicion already entertained .- His in the extreme, and " dat denced countenance was pale even to ghastliness, and his deep-set eyes glared with unnatural lustre. After some inquiries part, I had charge of a couple of dark "And what cause have you, Jupiter, respecting his health, I asked him, not knowing what better to say, if he had ried attached to the end of a bit of white-"Claws enuff, massa, and mouff too. vet obtained the scaraboeus from Lieu-

> "Oh, yes," he replied, coloring violently. "I got it from him the next morning. Nothing should tempt me to part with it best, however, to humor his fancy, at that scaraboeus. Do you know that least for the present, or until I could

"In what way?" I asked, with a sad foreboding at heart.

"In supposing it to be a bug of real believed to be totally new, but in respect puzzled me-and, as for the drawing of paper and stuff piece ob it in he mouff- gold." He said this with an air of profound seriousness, and I felt inexpress.

"This bug is to make my fortune," he "we shall see !" continued, with a triumphant smile, "to

ly and I shall arrive at the gold of which scaraboeus !"

"What! de bug, massa? I'd rudder not go fer trubble dat bug-you mus git him for your own self." Hereupon but to what fortunate circumstance am I Legrand arose, with a grave and stately to attribute the honor of a visit from air, and brought me the beetle from a glass case in which it was enclosed. It was a beautiful scarabocus, and, at that time, unknown to naturalists-of course a great prize in a scientific point of view. There were two round black spots near one extremity of the back, and a long one near the other The scales were exceedingly hard and glossy, with all the appearance of burnished gold. The weight of the insect was very remarksideration, I could hardly blame Jupiter for his opinion respecting it; but what Since I saw you I have had great to make of Legrand's concordance with

> "I sent for you," said he, in a grandiloquent tone, when I had completed my examination of the beetle; "I sent sel and assistance in furthering the views

> "My dear Legrand," I cried, interrupting him, "you are certainly unwell, and had better use some little precautions. You shall go to bed, and I will remain with you a few days, until you get over this. You are feverish and"-

> " Feel my pulse," said he. I felt it, and, to say the truth, found

not the slightest indication of fever. "But you may be ill and yet have no fever. Allow me this once to prescribe for you. In the first place, go

to bed. In the next."-"You are mistaken," he interposed, "I am as as well as I can expect to be under the excitement which I suffer. If you really wish me well, you will relieve this excitement."

" And how is this to be done?"

"Very easily. Jupiter and myself are going upon an expedition into the hills, upon the main land, and, in this, expedition, we shall need the aid of some person in whom we can confide You are the only one we can trust. Whether we succeed or fail, the excitement which you now perceive in me will

be equally allayed." "I am anxious to oblige you in any way," I replied; "but do you mean to say that this infernal beetle has any connection with your expedition into the

"Then, Legrand, I can become a narty to no such absurd proceeding." "I am sorry-very sorry-for we shall

have to try it by ourselves." "Try it by yourselves! The man is surely mad !--but stay !-- how long do

you propose to be absent ?" "Probably all night. We shall start immediately, and be back, at all avents, by sunrise.

"And will you promise me, upon your honor, that when this freak of yours is over, and the bug business (good God !) settled to your satisfaction, you will then return home and follow my advice implicitly as that of your physician ?"

"Yes; I promise, and new let us be off, for we have no time to lose." With a heavy heart I accompanied my

friend. We started about four o'clock -Legrand, Jupiter, the dog, and myself. Jupiter had with him the scythe and spades-the whole of which he insisted upon carrying-more through fear, it seemed to me, of thrusting either of the implements within reach of his master, than from any oxcess of industry or complaisance. His demeanor was dogged were the sole words which escaped his lips during the journey. For my own lanterns, while Legrand contented him-self with the scarabocus, which he carcord; twirling it to and fro, with the air of a conjuror, as he went. When I observed this last, plain evidence of my friend's aberration of mind, I could scarcely refrain from tears. I thought adopt some more opergetie measures. with a chance of success In the mean time I endeavored, but all in vain, to sound him is regard to the object of the expedition. Having succeeded in inducing me to accompany him, he seemed unwilling to hold conversation upon any topic of minor importance, and to all my questions vouchsafed 20 other reply than

(To be Continued.)

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